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Newsletter



GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

January 23, 1953

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

AS THE FIRST SEMESTER

comes to a close I shall be in the Southwest conferring with officials of various colleges and universities in connection with my work as consultant for the Southern Regional Education Board. This trip takes me to Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

GS LOST A LONG-TIME FRIEND

and teacher in the death of Melvin C. Merrill, December 22. Until his retirement in 1949, Dr. Merrill was chief of publications in the USDA Office of Information. He was closely associated with GS from its beginning. His course in editing was the training ground for scores of men and women who now hold editing jobs in various Government agencies. A horticulturist, botanist, and editor of distinction, Dr. Merrill served as head of the horticultural department of Utah State College and as director of the Baguio Experiment Station in the Philippine Islands before coming to USDA.

AN INCREASE OF 15 PERCENT

in course registrations over the previous year is shown in Registrar Louise Sullivan's report on GS statistics for 1951-52. The School served 4,726 individuals who were enrolled for 6,808 courses.

Average GS student in 1951-52 was younger (more of them were in the 20 to 29 age bracket), had more formal schooling (97 percent had completed 12 years or more of school and 37 percent held bachelor's or advanced degrees) and held a higher job rating (more students were in the GS 5 to GS 9 grades, fewer in the GS 2 to GS 4 grades) than the average student of the preceding year. The report shows the highest percentage of women (49) on record.

Mimeographed copies of the report are available from Miss Sullivan, Room 1031, South Building, Agriculture.

"THE NEED FOR CLOSER COLLABORATION"

between the Congress and the Administration has frequently been felt and voiced. So long as the United States was half empty, prosperous, and well protected by broad oceans, the old idea of balance of power as maintained by dividing government into watertight compartments was tolerable. Now that our nation is crowded, harrassed by weighty social and economic problems, and deeply involved in world affairs, better teamwork between the legislative and executive segments of government is essential to our welfare and national security."

That quotation comes from the GS publication, WHAT WE LEARNED IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DURING THE WAR. It is from the address given by then-Congressman Estes Kefauver. It makes an excellent preview to the Jump-McKillop memorial lecture series on legislative-executive relations.

This is by way of reminding you that the lectures, which began January 15, offer an unusual opportunity to discuss many aspects of this important national problem. The lectures will cover the three main prongs of legislative-executive relations: policy formulation, the budget process, and program administration. Held on alternate Thursdays in Jefferson auditorium, they are free.

HONORS WOULD BE GRANTED

with certificates of accomplishment under a plan suggested by a subcommittee (Gladys Baker, Patterson French, and John Thurston) of the Department of Public Administration. The plan provides that the student, whose grades in the required courses have qualified him to seek honors, be given a comprehensive oral by a panel of examiners. Our interest in this plan is heightened by the increasing number of students who are working toward certificates of accomplishment.

In Public Administration the committee is also considering the use of cases in class work. Ivan Asay is taking the leadership in planning a seminar on cases in PA courses for members of the PA faculty.

A subcommittee headed by Marshall Wright (Technology) is working on a course of study at the graduate level that would lead to a certificate of accomplishment in cartography. When set up this program will mean that GS is continuing to pioneer in this important field of study.

GS FACULTY MEMBERS

are peculiarly well fitted to serve as consultants to other schools in the preparation of courses on Federal procedures. When the officials of University of Denver asked our assistance in setting up a course in Federal Property Procedure, John Holden and Tony Baldauf (Office Techniques) prepared a syllabus and suggested reading materials.

OFFICIALS OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

have agreed to a procedure whereby GS students may work toward credit for advanced degrees in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. This represents a far reaching step in our move to enable Federal employees in the Washington area to take full advantage of certain courses that are available only through GS.

In a letter from Dr. Roscoe C. Martin, Chairman of the Political Science Department at Syracuse, to O. B. Conaway, assistant director of GS, the plan is outlined as follows:

After full consultation with his GS advisor, the student will apply for admission to the Maxwell Graduate School with the understanding that this entails neither a fee with the application or a firm commitment to enter Syracuse.

If admitted, the student, his GS advisor, and a representative of Syracuse will plan a program of study in which the student proposes certain GS courses to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

GS will supply Syracuse officials with course outlines and statements of the training and experience of the instructors of these courses.

If after thorough review the proposed courses are acceptable to Syracuse, the student may enroll for them with the full assurance that credit for satisfactory work will be transferable to Syracuse.

The courses need not be limited to public administration but may range over the whole field of the social sciences and include accounting, statistics, the languages, and other tool subjects.

GS is to assume responsibility for careful and continuous counseling of the students enrolled under the plan.

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

of the type that has helped to build and maintain GS and many forward looking Government enterprises holds endless opportunities for extending the usefulness of men and machines. A recent example that has come to my attention is an arrangement in Denver whereby researchers in cattle breeding in the Bureau of Animal Industry are making use of IBM machines in the office of the Farmers Home Administration to tabulate data from experiments in some 20 States. I am indebted to Henry W. Marston, ARA, for this information. I will be glad to hear of similar instances.

ONLY THE REGISTRATION FEE

of \$5 is charged members of the faculty and committees who wish to take courses in GS. This semester 15 people are taking advantage of the reduced rate. Another reminder: books may be obtained through the GS Bookstore at publisher's discount. Give your orders to Vera Jensen.

AMONG OURSELVES

Henry Stevens is the new chairman of the Department of Physical Sciences. Dr. Stevens, who is in charge of chemical investigations of allergens in agricultural products, BAIC, succeeds Elsa Keiles (PHS) who was unable to continue in the post.

V. J. Tereshtenko has just informed us that New York engagements will make it impossible for him to teach courses on the USSR this coming semester but he plans to be with us again next fall.

James E. Halligan, vice chairman of the Committee on Office Techniques, retired from his post as assistant administrator FHA, December 19, and has gone to Florida to make his home.

George Goodrick, O. & M. examiner for Interior, is taking over the course in Advanced Administrative Procedure formerly taught by Sidney Adams.

Mr. Goodrick holds an M. Ec. from Columbia University and has credit toward a PhD. at the University of Chicago. He formerly served as a lecturer in the School of Commerce, Northwestern University.

Our congratulations to Marion W. Parker (Biological Sciences) who last month was named head of the division of rubber plant investigations, BPISAE. Dr. Parker succeeds R. D. Rands, a long-time friend of GS, who has retired and will make his home in Florida.

In the GS office, we are losing a popular staff member in February when Marjorie Jenkins resigns to marry Jack Wellmerling. Bettianne Powers, Youngstown, Ohio, has joined the staff. Mrs. Dova Manili, my secretary, is convalescing from an operation.

Sincerely,



Director